

FORGIVENESS.

Forgiveness—plant of soft refined, divine, whose blossoms reach beyond the earthly mold. Beyond the storm, the tempest and the cold. To gather from heaven's unsullied shrine—O flower of Eden! be forever mine. To cheer me when my day-dreams grow old. And scatter dew from regions that enfold. The healing leaves by water and by fire. Then antidote for wrath and hate and fear. Balm of the heart by lips of loved ones would be shed. Soothing the throats of sharp indignities. Thy fragrance claims the soul when night is near. And angels come with heavenly wreaths surround. To light with love this land of Nox. —Julia Boyes Stickney.

Doings of Absentminded Folk.

It is not pleasant to be absentminded, but incidents in the lives of absentminded people give rise to a great deal of laughter in this world. Of course no one believes that there is any truth in the story of the absentminded man who put his clothes to bed and hung himself carefully over the back of his chair. Nor have we found any body yet who had any confidence in the story of the absentminded small boy who went fishing and anchored the boat with his fishhook and drowned his sport because he could not find a worm large enough to bait the anchor with.

These stories, however true they may be, seem slightly exaggerated, but there are others quite as interesting and yet faithful to facts. For instance, there is the story of a man who arranged to give an elaborate dinner to a numerous and distinguished company. The appointed evening arrived. The collation, an elegant one, was ready to be served, but the guests came not. Half an hour passed, and still they did not come, and the host became really uneasy. When the delay had grown to an hour and a man of them had shown up, his feelings were indecipherable. And who could picture his agony of spirit when, on returning to his room, he chanced to pull open a drawer and therein found the whole bundle of invitations which he had forgotten to send out!

And what an absentminded young man that must have been who, while being married, replied to the minister's question if he was willing to take the young lady for his wedded wife by scratching his head and saying, "Yes, I will, but I don't rather have her sister?"—Harper's Young People.

The Kind of a Bird He Was.

Eight little negro boys got on a Niagara street car. They had been out to St. Mary's to rehearse something or other (they were choir boys), and they were then on their way to St. Paul's. The women in the car talked to them and asked them all sorts of questions. They all talked willingly, except one little fellow, who was as black as coal, and who seemed to be the butt of the other seven.

"So you all sing?" asked one of the women.

"Yes," answered three of the boys at the same time.

"Oh, you are regular little black-birds."

"Then, no, ma'am. Blackbirds don't do nothin' but chirp. I'm a canary."

"An I'm a mookin' bird," said another, and each boy told what kind of a bird he was, until the eighth one, the butt being mentioned, was the only one who had said nothing.

"And what kind of a bird are you, my little fellow?" asked the woman.

"Deed, ma'am," he answered, "I speck I'm a chicken. I gets it in the neck so offen."—Buffalo Express.

Served God and Man.

The late Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand and Melanesia was well known during his university days as a devotee of the noble art of self defense. He incurred a great deal of animosity from a certain section in New Zealand, owing to his sympathy with the Maoris during the war. One day he was asked by a rough in one of the back streets of Auckland if he was "the bishop who backed up the Maoris." Receiving a reply in the affirmative, the rough, with a "Take that, then," struck his lordship in the face.

"My friend," said the bishop, "my Bible tells me that if a man smite thee on one cheek turn to him the other," and he turned his head slightly the other way. His assailant, slightly bewildered and wondering what was coming next, struck him again. "Now," said his lordship, "having done my duty to God, I will do my duty to man," and taking off his coat and hat he took the other side of the chest, upon a most scientific thrashing.—Home Journal.

A Sure Sign.

Wife—Who was that who called?

Husband—One of my tenants who came to pay his rent.

"Did he pay it?"

"Yes."

"Then why do you look so gloomy?"

"He didn't say a word about wanting \$500 or \$600 worth of repairs."

"What of it?"

"That shows he's going to leave."—Harborsburg Patriot.

The American Father and Son.

The interests of the American father and son are more often closely allied than one can find in any other nation. While in other nations generation succeeds generation, in America the son's interests are identical with those of the father during lifetime, and two generations stand shoulder to shoulder.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Ingalls' Speech Building.

Ex-Senator Ingalls had a remarkable way of preparing his speeches, according to Frederick Haig, formerly his private secretary. He first dictated a speech very rapidly. Then he dictated another and another new speech on the same subject, and taking the typewritten copies of both speeches he would cut, paste, erase and interpolate until he had made one symmetrical and harmonious address out of the two.

Professor Williams of Johns Hopkins university says that the practice of hazing at colleges is an ancient one. He came across an old rule at Heidelberg university, where he studied, printed in 1467, forbidding the practice by the older students of shaving the heads of the new students and filling their ears with wax.

A high stone wall shuts in the garden of Gray's Inn, London. The municipal authorities have ordered that the wall be removed and an open iron fence substituted in order that the passersby may enjoy the beauties of trees and flowers.

In 1866 an experimental cruise of all the ironclads in the navy, 30 in number, was made during very rough weather to ascertain how they would behave during a storm. Result deemed successful.

It's sometimes wise to act as if you were rich when you are poor, and when rich to act as if you were poor.

The length of the largest tiger skin ever taken, after being stretched and dried, was 18 feet 6 1/2 inches.

TO TILLERS OF THE SOIL.

Hints That May Prove of Benefit to Our Neighbors.

Articles of Unvalued Worth to the Farmer, Collected from Reliable Sources.

HOW SHALL WE SUPPLY NITROGEN?

Many of our common farm crops are heavy feeders of nitrogen. Their profitable cultivation seems to depend more upon the nitrogen supply than upon the mineral constituents such as potash, lime, and phosphoric acid. Crops like oats, hay, tobacco, cabbage and onions are generally classed as heavy feeders of nitrogen. The composition does not in all cases indicate that they remove from the soil large quantities of nitrogen, but they seem to lack the power to gather up nitrogen themselves, and unless a liberal and readily available supply of this element is provided, they make a sickly, yellow growth and often do not mature a crop.

Nitrogen is secured in the form of nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, and in blood, meat, fish and vegetable matter, including manure. The supply of animal refuse is constantly being utilized for more profitable purposes: than as a fertilizer, and a fish of the sea seems to be the only inexhaustible supply of organic nitrogen.

A cheap way to get nitrogen is to feed stock with foods rich in nitrogen. Feeds that have the highest feeding value—that produce the most flesh, growth, milk or butter—likewise have the highest natural value. A ton of good English hay contains only 26 lbs of nitrogen, worth \$3.90, dry corn stover 10 lbs worth \$1.50, wheat straw 6 lbs worth 90c, red clover hay 42 lbs worth \$6.30. There is as much difference in grains also, a ton of Indian corn containing only 32 lbs of nitrogen worth \$1.80, wheat bran 44 lbs, gluten meal 94 lbs, linseed meal 104 lbs, while cottonseed meal averages 140 lbs of nitrogen to the ton, worth at 15c \$21.

The losses that take place in manure before it is applied to the soil are chiefly nitrogen. Recent German experiments have shown that about one-third of the nitrogen fed to animals is given off as ammonia in the stables and thus lost, unless suitable absorbents are used to hold it.

Experiments made at the Kansas station are also of value as a means of estimating the waste that takes place through leaching. These go to show that about 40 per cent of the nitrogen of fresh stable manure is lost by leaving the manure exposed in heaps for four to six months during the winter season, but we are safe in asserting that, on the average farm, where the manure is not housed, fully one-third of its value is lost before it reaches the soil. We need to bend every effort to produce all the nitrogen we can in the manure of our animals, but it is equally important that we carefully guard against the waste of this most changeable and uncertain element of plant food.

But with the best feeding and the best care of manure, our stock of nitrogen is costly and insufficient, and we need to get all we can from the air. It is now fully established that, under ordinary circumstances of cultivation, all of the leguminous plants, such as clover, peas, beans, alfalfa, vetches and lupines, are able to get large quantities of nitrogen from the air, through the medium of bacteria and the tubercles, so abundant on the roots of all these plants. Only the legumes have this power of obtaining nitrogen from the air. Crops like rye, buckwheat and rape have long been advocated as valuable ones for green manuring, but these should be replaced by some of the legumes whenever practicable. The tops, roots and stubs of the legumes would contain from 100 to 200 lbs of nitrogen per acre in a good crop, as much nitrogen as is furnished in 10 to 20 tons of manure, or 600 to 1200 lbs of nitrate of soda. In addition to the power of gathering nitrogen from the air, the legumes are also valuable on account of their extensive root growth and the power to gather much of their mineral food from the subsoil.

THE PROPER TIME TO CUT OATS.

Many farmers subject themselves to heavy loss each year by neglecting to cut their crops at the proper time. Perhaps more is lost on the alfalfa crop than on any other, but great waste is also engendered each season by allowing the oats crop to stand until it is nearly or quite dead ripe. There are several items of loss attendant upon following such a course. The straw, an important element, especially when fodder is scarce, has not half the feeding value when allowed to ripen until that it has when cut some days before fully ripe. Grain cut when ripe shatters out much more in handling than that cut while there is yet a strong tinge to green to the straw; and the actual weight of the threshed grain is less than when cut moderately green.

This last seems a little unreasonable but it is a fact beyond dispute. Repeated experiments show that a considerable weight of grain may be saved by cutting oats nearly a week earlier than is the common practice. In nearly every case it has been found that oats cut when "in the dough" or very shortly afterward made a heavier yield of grain than did those which were left to fully ripen. This is entirely because of the increased plumpness of the kernels, without taking into consideration the saving in the way of shattered grain. Besides the advantages mentioned there is the added one that if the cutting is begun early there is less likelihood of its being prolonged by bad weather or accident until the grain has lodged or crinkled, and so become difficult to cut.

There is scarcely a disadvantage to be charged to the practice of cutting early.

With a longrun of wet weather immediately subsequent to cutting, before the bundles have had time to dry out, there is a possibility that they may mold a trifle, but such spells of weather are exceedingly rare, almost unknown, in this state and scarcely worth considering. Early cutting is the proper thing when viewed in any light, and it will be to the advantage of farmers if they will practice it. If any one is afraid to try it on his entire acreage let him strike off a small strip and cut the oats on this very green as an experiment. Let him begin cutting as soon as half the heads are ripe and while the field is still decidedly verdant in appearance. The cutting will be done more easily, the yield of grain will be heavier and that of straw more valuable, and the waste will be less than on any other crop of oats he ever cut.

PROFITS IN SPRAYING.

W. J. Green, horticulturist of the Ohio experiment station, in bulletin No. 12 gives the following summary of results of spraying:

1. The profit to be derived from spraying orchards often exceeds \$20 per acre, and for vineyards much more. The fruit crop of the state would be enhanced in value several million dollars annually if the practice were generally followed.

2. Combined fungicides and insecticides are recommended whenever applicable, because of a saving of time; a less liability of injuring foliage; greater efficiency in some cases, and as a precautionary measure in others.

3. Dilute Bordeaux mixture, copper-arsenic solution and ammoniacal solution of copper carbonate are the most useful fungicides for the treatment of the diseases herein mentioned, and the first has the widest range of usefulness of all.

4. Early spraying is the key to success in the use of fungicide.

5. For the plum-curello and shot-hole fungus use Bordeaux mixture and Paris green combined, making three or four applications.

It is not known that this treatment will prevent the black-knot, but cutting away and burning diseased branches will accomplish the result.

6. Scabby apples rot much earlier than those free from scab, and spraying with fungicides will save at least fifty per cent of this loss.

7. Spraying with fungicides in the season of 1895 prevented much of the early dropping of apples, which is usually attributed to wet weather.

8. For apples, two applications of Bordeaux mixture before blooming are advised, and two of the same mixture after blooming, with Paris green added.

9. The same treatment is recommended for the pear as for the apple, before blooming, but the copper-arsenic solution is advised after blooming.

10. The Bordeaux mixture, if used too late, causes a russet appearance on both pears and apples.

11. The quince may be treated the same as apples, or with Bordeaux mixture alone.

12. The treatment advised for the cherry consists in making two or three applications of Paris green—two ounces to fifty gallons of water.

13. Peach-trees and American varieties of plums have very tender foliage, and must be treated with very weak mixtures, if at all.

14. Raspberries may be treated with Bordeaux mixture alone. Grapes with the same until the fruit sets; after which use copper carbonate. Potatoes should be sprayed at least five times with Bordeaux mixture and Paris green.

HUMANITARIAN TREATMENT OF THE HORSE.

The care and management of the horses which are required for farm work are duties which are often performed very badly. During the plowing and cultivating season, during harvest and when the crop is being marketed, horses demand a great deal of care and attention which is too often denied them. These are the hard working times of the year for the horse as well as for man and equal attention should be paid to the demand for more and perhaps better food. There is no necessity for a horse becoming poor and unthrifty at these seasons. Good feed and careful treatment will keep the horses in their ordinary condition through the hardest periods of farm work. Plenty of bright hay and clean grain is indispensable in the proper management of work teams and every farmer should take care to provide both.

Good grooming is another important item. With many the practice is to curry the horses in the morning before harnessing them for work. While this is much better than no grooming at all, much more satisfaction will be had if the horses are well rubbed down at night after the day's work is completed. To remain all night with the hair matted with perspiration is decidedly uncomfortable and prevents the animals to a great extent from enjoying and profiting by the rest. Special care needs to be given to the shoulders, which should be thoroughly cleaned and washed every night with salt and water. Washing the shoulders at noon is also advisable. The brine helps to toughen the skin and renders it less liable to be chafed by the collar.

Attention should also be bestowed upon the feet, which should not be left clogged up with dirt and possibly with a stone or other substance imbedded in one of the frogs. It makes a horse feel much better to remove the mud which has been accumulated on the legs during the day's work, and whatever makes the work horse feel better affects the pocket book of its owner. While plenty of good feed is necessary, no more than the horse will clean up at one time should be given. If food is left each time it soon sours the feed box and disgusts the horse to the extent that it will not eat freely even of fresh grain. It is always better to give a horse a pint too little than a pint too much, but it should be seen to that the deficiency does not exceed a pint. A kindness that is much appreciated by horses but little practiced by drivers is the entire removal of the harness during the noon hour.

THE QUEER ISLAND OF CURACAO.

Dependent Upon Rain for its Fresh Water Supply.

Old Customs of the African, Spanish, Dutch and Indian Inhabitants—Stone Dwellings and Narrow Streets.

Curacao is one of the queerest little islands of the Caribbean sea. It lies 60 miles north of Venezuela, is about 60 miles long and 12 or 14 wide, and it has a population of more than 50,000.

There is no means of procuring fresh water on the island except by saving rainwater in reservoirs. A number of wells have been bored under the supervision of the Dutch government, to which it belongs, but each ended in failure.

A curious statement regarding these borings is made by the inhabitants of the island. They say that in each and every case after a certain depth was reached the tools dropped out of sight, indicating that there is no solid foundation to the island. The borings were made in low places and through hills, and in about 30 different places, with the same ultimate result. A few wells have been dug to a lesser depth and brackish, unpleasant tasting water is obtained from them, fit only for manufacturing purposes.

The approach of the rainy season is always an interesting time there. The water in the reservoir is low at this time, and the natives eagerly await the opportunity to gather a fresh supply. Clothing is never washed in fresh water, but at all hours of the day the beach is alive with women beating the manorial elements of this colored water, so that even on a steep hillside the water flows but a short distance until it loses its color.

It is said that the process of refining sugar was discovered by observing the white tracks left by an old hen with muddy feet as she walked over a pile of brown sugar, and this property of clay has been demonstrated in many other ways.

As the matter stands now, it is probable that the occasional losses which may follow the spreading of manure upon the ground previous to a heavy fall of rain, are far more than offset by the certain losses which ensue if the manure is allowed to heat, either in the barn-yard or in piles in the open field, for this heating begins the moment the temperature rises above the freezing point.—Chas. E. Thorne.

HOW GOOD STOCK PAYS.

I was visiting a farm recently where I saw 1,000 chickens of all sizes, grades and lineal descent. Anything was a chicken and so much per pound. I asked the farmer why he did not raise thoroughbreds and thus have two strings to his bow and work up to a fancier's position? He replied that the sales for thoroughbreds were so few that it would not pay. But, I remarked, there is not a bird on your place that will sell for \$1.50, while 9 out of 10 will not sell for \$1 each. Suppose you sell only 10 per cent of those you raised for \$30 per doz., the balance, though they were thoroughbred, would bring you as much per pound as those you now have. Would not this item furnish you a nucleus for a bank account? You say, by hard work, they pay you as you are now running it. He was silent a few seconds and finally said, "I reckon we are not getting all out of this thing that we might." That man is surely at the foot of the ladder, doing the very largest amount of labor for a dollar.

Poultry culture is a means of converting one's labor into cash; he who labors in the right direction and with the best breeds secures the highest price for such labor.

Again we see the poultry raiser who acknowledges the fact that the product from crossing thoroughbreds pays a larger profit, and he it who purchases eggs and stock of the fancier to produce his workers. They grow quicker to a salable size and are better producers of eggs, which are his staple product, and find a daily market the year round. He disposes of one-half of his product for poultry and sells for breeding and show purposes only those of the highest merit. We see him enjoying the best of reputations as a fancier, his pocketbook well filled, and ever alive to the interest of his calling.—I. K. Fitch.

ASHES FOR FRUIT TREES.

Professor Budd says: "No fact is now better established than that ashes are the one thing useful on our soils for the production of a high grade of the grape. This is not surprising in view of the statement made by chemists that a crop of four tons of grapes to the acre removes from the soil forty pounds of potash, thirteen pounds of nitrogen and twelve pounds of phosphoric acid."

Thinning fruit trees is a matter that should now engage the attention of every fruit grower. Wherever apples, pears, peaches or any of the larger fruits have set too thickly out the limbs or branches, they should be thinned out. This thinning will invariably result in much larger and finer fruit, for the vitality of the fruiting element in the tree, instead of being disseminated among a countless number of newly-set fruit, scarcely any of which will mature perfectly, will be forced into a small number of buds which will develop into choice fruit. If only as a matter of experiment, trying thinning out one limb and watch for the results.

Look round the orange grove and use tree props where necessary—better pay out a few cents for props than have broken branches.

Buying fruit trees is like any other bargain—the best is generally the cheapest.

Sow none but the best seed. Remember the best is none too good.

Replace the half rotten fence post before it gives away entirely.

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WALL STREET SUPERSTITIONS.

Brokers Who Have Their Mascots—The Number 13 Feared and Respected.

Luck does not rule Wall Street so completely as the uninitiated suppose. Nevertheless it exercises considerable influence, and consequently many brokers and speculators have all the superstitions that mark the gambler. It would be difficult to find among them a man who has not something superstitious to say about Fridays. Even financiers who are pillars of the church I believe about beginning big operations on that day, and they will frequently suffer inconvenience, if not actual loss, rather than do so. Men who can look at the tape as it runs out of the ticker and see fortune slipping out of their grasp without a change of expression will turn pale when they remember that they forgot to tip a hanger before entering the exchange. There are others who will not sit down to lunch without first walking around their chair.

There is a hatter in New York who has a block that was made for a certain Wall street man many years ago. It is still in use. Styles have changed a hundred times, since it was made, but the man who owned it has paid no attention to them. In other respects he carefully follows the mandates of fashion, but this antique headgear he wears through winters and summers. He is a wealthy banker and broker, a man of practical mind, unhampered by theories on any other subject, and this, yet not for \$1,000 could he be induced to walk upon the floor of the exchange wearing a hat of any other style or make.

Nearly every dabbler in stock has a mascot of some kind which is priceless. I remember meeting a well known speculator, a top town during one of the exciting days of the panic. "Why, what are you doing here?" I asked. "Why are you not in the street?" "I am on my way home," he replied. "I forgot my mascot, and I won't touch anything in the street until I get it. I'm going for it now and am in a great hurry. Good-by."

I have met another operator, a man of very practical and unromantic mind, who sets great store by a peculiar scarf-pin. He admits that it is merely a superstition, but he would not dare to enter into speculation on a day when he did not wear it.

The fear of Friday is, however, the most universal superstition of the street. The great panic of 1859, when scores of wealthy men were ruined in a day, has been known in Wall street ever since as Black Friday. A broker who is a partner in one of the biggest houses in the street once declared: "There are two things that I am superstitious about—one is Friday and the other is the number 13. Some months ago I came down to my office on Friday and wore the leaf of my calf skin. To my horror the figure 13 stared me in the face. It was Friday and the 13th of the month. 'Great heavens!' I thought to myself, 'now I'll catch it sure.' Within two hours I received word that 50,000 bushels of grain, stored there, had been destroyed by fire in smoke. Those were stocks in which we were heavily interested went down three points."—Munsey's Magazine.

A Snail's Formidable Mouth.

It is a fortunate thing for man and the rest of the animal kingdom, said the naturalist, "that no larger animal has a mouth constructed with the devouring apparatus built on the plan of the insignificant looking snail's mouth, for that animal could devour anything that lives. The snail itself is such an entirely unimpressive creature, with its head and tentacles, that few amateur naturalists care to bother with it, but by neglecting the snail they miss studying one of the most interesting objects that come under their observation."

Any one who has noticed a snail feeding on a leaf must have wondered how such a soft, flabby, slimy animal can make such a sharp and clean cut in the leaf, leaving an edge as smooth and straight as if it had been cut with a knife. That is due to the peculiar and formidable mouth he has. The snail eats with his tongue and the roof of his mouth. The tongue is a ribbon which the snail keeps in a coil in his mouth. The tongue is really a hard sword, with the teeth on the surface instead of on the edge. The teeth are so small that as many as 30,000 of them have been found on one snail's tongue. He can uncoil as much of this as he chooses, and the uncoiled part he brings into service. The sword, therefore, is as hard as bone. He cramps the leaf between his tongue and that hard substance, and rasping away with his tongue saws through the toughest leaf with ease, always leaving the edge very smooth and straight."—New York Journal.

No Use.

"Ignorance of things generally prevents us from enjoying a dreadful lot of happiness in this life," said a learned scientist to his minister one day. He was asked to this form of discourse with the clergyman, doubtless on the same principle that led him to talk sickness with his doctor and crops with his neighbors.

You get a terrible and vivid view of life as it really is when you see a man who is eating himself up to know a blessing when you see it. When I see folks throw their blessing away, it aches makes me think of a barrel of cranberries."

A barrel of cranberries! If the visitor felt small interest before, he certainly lacked none now. He expressed his surprise.

"Yes, a barrel of cranberries," said Aaron. "When I was in the West Indies, there was a man tucker of me when I was sick, and he wouldn't take pay, said I could send him something of the firm, so when I got home I shipped him a barrel of cranberries by a vessel that was going out from our place."

Well, after a time a letter came back. He wrote very polite and seemed grateful, but he said, most unfortunately, that the fruit looked pretty, but he had to throw it away, for in coming it had turned sour."

And then Aaron added his moral, "That's what I call missing the sweetness of things because you didn't know how to get at it."

Early Rising.

The old idea of attributing special morality to early rising is a bygone, out of date maxim.

Makes a man healthy and wealthy and wise, is a rhyme which has had its day. A certain medical man once discovered—with much statistical search—that he never found a case of extreme longevity unaccompanied by the habit of early rising, from which one might infer that they who rise late die early. But this would fall to take into account one well known fact—the fact that most elderly people are early risers because they cannot sleep at night. It is putting the cart before the horse, a reversal of cause and effect, to infer that people live to be old because they do not sleep late. Arranged in logical sequence, the conclusion is that they do not sleep late because they are old, and it is folly for human beings to regulate their movements on ornithological principles.—Philadelphia Press.

Where to Put the Moral.

A preacher says that one time while addressing about 3,000 children and entertaining them with a variety of stories he thought it might be well to point the moral of one